



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

to lose their office from the accidents of home politics, they identify their character and consideration with their special trust, and have a much more permanent interest in the success of their administration, and in the prosperity of the country which they administer, than a member of a cabinet under a representative constitution can possibly have in the good government of any country except the one which he serves. So far as the choice of those who carry on the management on the spot devolves upon this body, their appointment is kept out of the vortex of party and Parliamentary jobbing, and freed from the influence of those motives to the abuse of patronage for the reward of adherents, or to buy off those who would otherwise be opponents, which are always stronger with statesmen of average honesty than a conscientious sense of the duty of appointing the fittest man. To put this one class of appointments as far as possible out of harm's way, is of more consequence than the worst which can happen to all other offices in the state; for, in every other department, if the officer is unqualified, the general opinion of the community directs him in a certain degree what to do; but in the position of the administrators of a dependency where the people are not fit to have the control in their own hands, the character of the government entirely depends on the qualifications, moral and intellectual, of the individual functionaries." — pp. 356–358.

---

#### ART. X. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *The Remains of the late MRS. RICHARD TRENCH, being Selections from her Journals, Letters, and other Papers.* Edited by her Son, the Dean of Westminster. London: Parker, Son, and Bourn. 1862. 8vo. pp. viii. and 525.

No one could have edited such a volume as this with greater judgment and good taste than Dean Trench has exhibited in every part of it. He has carefully refrained from any eulogy of his mother's character or writings, and has allowed her letters and journals to tell the story of her life, with only such explanatory remarks as are absolutely necessary to render them intelligible to the reader. "As I have abstained through all this volume hitherto," he writes on the last page, when recording the date of her death, "from any comment whatever, so I feel it will best become me to abstain to the end." The "Remains" which he has edited with such scrupulous delicacy show, however, that

Mrs. Trench well merited the encomium bestowed on her by Miss Anna Seward, as being "lovely, amiable, and accomplished," and few of the innumerable letter-writers of the Georgian era whose private correspondence has been printed in our own time have left a more pleasing picture of themselves. Mrs. Trench was not a woman of superior ability; her more elaborate prose compositions would scarcely have deserved the honors of publication; and her poems are in no respect distinguished from the fugitive verses of many of her sex who have no claim to rank among successful authors. But there was that in her character which grows on our regard the more intimately we become acquainted with her writings; and many of her journals and letters are of permanent interest, especially the account of her tour in Germany, and the letters written during her enforced residence in France.

She was the daughter of an Irish clergyman, the only surviving son of Bishop Chenevix, Lord Chesterfield's friend and correspondent, and was born in 1768. Before she was four years old both of her parents died, and while she was still a child she was also deprived of her grandfather's care. Yet she was not without kind friends, who, as the result proved, faithfully watched over her, and before she was eighteen she married Colonel St. George, an officer in the English army. Her married life was happy, though short, and she was early left a widow with one son, Charles Manners St. George, who afterward entered the diplomatic service of his country, and to whom many of her letters are addressed. After her husband's death she went to the Continent, apparently for the benefit of her health, and spent some time in different parts of Germany, keeping a very full and interesting record of everything that she saw and did. Subsequently she married Richard Trench, Esq., and on the conclusion of the Peace of Amiens she visited France with her husband, who was detained there as a prisoner on the breaking out of hostilities, and was not released until several years afterward. While she remained in France, Mrs. Trench passed much of her time in Paris, and her letters to her husband, who was not allowed to leave Orleans, and to her friends in England, contain some very graphic sketches of life among the prisoners. After her husband's release and their return home, her personal history was not marked by any noticeable incidents except the death of a child or of some attached friend. Her own death occurred on the 27th of May, 1827, after a long and painful illness.

Mrs. Trench seldom refers to public affairs, and her letters throw no new light on the memorable transactions of the period over which they extend; but occasionally we catch a glimpse of the impression produced on the writer's mind by some important or noteworthy event, and, as a

picture of social life for the half-century preceding her death, the volume has considerable worth, apart from the interest which her personal character excites. On the latter account, especially, we are grateful for the labor which Dean Trench has taken in rescuing these "Remains" from oblivion.

2. — *The Correspondence of LEIGH HUNT.* Edited by his Eldest Son. With a Portrait. London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 1862. 2 vols. Small 8vo. pp. viii. and 333, 331.

A READER of these volumes who should form his estimate of Leigh Hunt's character as a letter-writer from the first of them, would be likely to entertain a rather unfavorable view of the intellectual capacity of that pleasing essayist and poet. The earlier letters from Hunt's own pen, though composed in his usual "chatty" style, are singularly trivial and uninteresting, and scarcely reward any one for the time spent in their perusal, while many of those addressed to him will be read with a feeling of disappointment. But in the second volume the letters are much more entertaining, and among them are several very interesting and characteristic productions. It is, however, to be regretted that Mr. Thornton Hunt, the editor, had not bestowed more care on their proper arrangement and their elucidation by explanatory notes. Many of the letters are obviously misdated, and are printed without regard to the connection of subjects, and very few have been properly annotated. Among Hunt's correspondents were most of the English literary celebrities of the last half-century; and in one or the other volume are letters to or from Shelley and his wife, Talfourd, Lord Brougham, Barry Cornwall, Jeffrey, Landor, Lord Macaulay, and others. One of the most delightful is a joint letter from Robert Browning and his wife, dated Bagni di Lucca, October 6, 1857, from which we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of quoting two passages. In the part written by the former we read:—

"I am still too near the production of *Aurora Leigh* to be quite able to see it all; my wife used to write it, and lay it down to hear our child spell, or when a visitor came, — it was thrust under the cushion then. At Paris, a year ago last March, she gave me the first six books to read; I having never seen a line before. She then wrote the rest, and transcribed them in London, where I read them also. I wish, in one sense, that I had written and she had read it."

In the part written by Mrs. Browning we find the following passage:—

"When we came here from Florence, a few months ago, to get repose and cheerfulness from the sight of the mountains, we said to ourselves that we